

# REVIEWS OF BOOKS

## GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

**Powdermaker, Florence, and Grimes, Louise Ireland.** *The Intelligent Parents' Manual.* London, 1944. Wm. Heinemann Medical Books. Pp. 256. Price 10s. 6d.

THIS book is the happy outcome of the collaboration of Dr. Powdermaker, a psychiatrist of wide experience with children, an Associate in Psychiatry of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, and Mrs. Grimes, the mother of several children and also a graduate of the Co-operative School for Student Teachers. The authors have managed to avoid technical terms and the discussion of psychological theories, without oversimplification of the complexities of physical, mental and emotional development and without overlooking the great variations in environment which make every child a unique problem. They do not lay down hard and fast rules, they appreciate sympathetically the difficulties which most or all parents encounter at times and they avoid discouraging predictions.

The book was originally published in America under the title "Children in the Family." Dr. Maurice Newfield has prepared the English edition for the press and has written an introduction which admirably summarizes the authors' point of view. As he emphasizes, the book is written for intelligent parents who will prefer to solve their problems as they arise in their own children within the special circumstances of their own family. They will wish to know the opinions of those who have devoted much time to studying these problems in a scientific and sympathetic spirit.

It is obvious that Dr. Powdermaker and Mrs. Grimes have approached their subject matter in this spirit, and the views they present are those generally accepted by psychiatrists and child psychologists to-day. They cover a wide field and give common-sense and practical suggestions for dealing

with the many problems of child development, particularly in the intellectual, emotional and social fields.

The book is arranged in five parts, the first two dealing with the development and management of the child in the first two years. The third part comprises the years from two until six. The fourth part considers development and care in later childhood and the early school years, and the final section is concerned with the adolescent. Sexual problems are treated here and earlier in the book in a straightforward way and many parents will find invaluable suggestions for imparting sex instruction.

This book should find a place on every intelligent parent's bookshelf, and it could be placed with advantage among the books of teachers, doctors and others who are closely associated with children. The latter particularly will find useful the appendices compiled by Anne Cuthbert.

HILDA LEWIS.

## CRIMINOLOGY

**Radzinowicz, L., and Turner, J. W. C.** (Editors). *Mental Abnormality and Crime.* English Studies in Criminal Science, Volume II. London, 1944. Macmillan. Pp. 316. Price 18s.

THIS book raises two problems of profound interest. One of them is the social and philosophical problem of what should be the attitude of society to the criminal. The other is the scientific problem of what are the causes of criminal behaviour.

In their able introductory note the Editors give a brief account of the change that has taken place in the course of centuries in the attitude of the judicature to crime and the criminal. Primitive justice is very largely retributive, on the Biblical principle of an eye for an eye. In lay hands its main concern was with the physical event which a crime represented, in legal terminology the *actus reus*. From the ecclesiastical side came the notion